

Council candidates talk growth at forum

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Montgomery County Council candidates gathered Thursday night at Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown for a forum where they answered four pre-decided questions about education, transportation, Germantown's growth and the future of the biotech industry in the county.

The format did not allow the candidates, all 13 running for At-Large and both people

vying for the District 2 seat, to take questions from the audience. The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce and the Germantown Alliance co-sponsored the forum.

About 20 people attended the question and answer session, which was moderated by Robert Jepson, vice president for government relations and public policy at Shady Grove Adventist Healthcare in Rockville.

Both District 2 candidates, Democrat Sharon Dooley, of Brookeville, and incumbent Michael I. Knapp (D-Dist. 2) of Germantown took questions first.

Dooley said that growth is the biggest issue affecting the upcounty that needs to be addressed and "managed better."

Knapp said that "transportation continues to be the biggest issue," and added that increasing MARC train service, widening Interstate 270 and working on the Corridor Cities Transitway are priorities.

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